

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, SA

SUBJECT: RCA GLOBCOM SERVICE TO ARAB COUNTRIES.

REF: (A) JIDDA 3420; (B) STATE 06881

1. VICE MINISTER OBAID'S BELIEF (REPORTED REF A) THAT RCA GLOBCOM HAS NO DIRECT SERVICE OR RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY ARAB COUNTRY IS MISTAKEN. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REF B), THIS IS NOT THE CASE. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH CONTAINS UP-TO-DATE DESCRIPTION BY RCA GLOBCOM OF ITS PRESENT RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO CORRECT VICE MINISTER OBAID'S MISIMPRESSION AS TO RCA GLOBCOM'S OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST.

2. A) EGYPT - EGYPT NOW WORKS THROUGH CABLE AND SATELLITE CIRCUITS WITH RCA GLOBCOM AND THEY JOINTLY PROVIDE TELEX, CONFIDENTIAL

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MESSAGE AND LEASED CHANNEL SERVICES BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES. EGYPT HAS RECENTLY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE JOINTLY WITH RCA GLOBCOM TWO VOICE GRADE CIRCUITS IN THE NEW TAT-6 CABLE SYSTEM BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES TO BE EXTENDED TO EGYPT TO PROVIDE FOR EXPANSION OF FACILITIES.

B) JORDAN - JORDAN HAS ESTABLISHED A DIRECT SATELLITE CIR-

CUIT WITH RCA GLOBCOM OVER WHICH THEY JOINTLY PROVIDE A FULL SPECTRUM OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES. THIS CIRCUIT HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE FEBRUARY 1972. RCA GLOBCOM IS THE PRIME COORDINATOR FOR THE CIRCUIT AND PASSES ON INDIVIDUAL 50-BAUD CIRCUITS TO BOTH ITT AND WUI SO THAT THOSE CARRIERS ALSO CAN PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES WITH JORDAN.

C) LEBANON- RCA GLOBCOM CONTINUES TO PROVIDE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS WITH LEBANON VIA THE TRANSATLANTIC V CABLE SYSTEM. THE LEBANESE PTT HAS JUST AGREED TO PURCHASE JOINTLY WITH RCA GLOBCOM FIVE VOICE GRADE CIRCUITS IN THE NEW TAT-6 CABLE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE EXPANDED SERVICES BETWEEN LEBANON AND THE UNITED STATES.

D) IRAQ - IRAQ HAS ESTABLISHED WITH RCA GLOBCOM DIRECT SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES WHICH BECAME OPERATIONAL IN EARLY MARCH 1977. TO DATE, MESSAGE, TELEX AND LEASED CHANNEL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE IRAQ PTT AND RCA GLOBCOM. ALTHOUGH THIS SHARED CIRCUIT IS MAINTAINED BY WUI, RCA HAS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE IRAQ PTT AS TO MESSAGE TRAFFIC TRANSMITTED BY RCA ON ITS LEASED CHANNELS.

E) KUWAIT - THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY OF KUWAIT HAS AGREED TO OPERATE DIRECT SATELLITE CIRCUITS BETWEEN KUWAIT AND RCA GLOBCOM TO PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF TELE-

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COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES BETWEEN KUWAIT AND THE U.S. ACTIVATION OF THIS DIRECT SERVICE IS EXPECTED SHORTLY.

F) SYRIA - SYRIA HAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIRECT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS WITH RCA GLOBCOM VIA A CABLE/ SATELLITE PATH. THIS VOICE GRADE CIRCUIT WILL BE MULTIPLEXED AND EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN RCA GLOBCOM, ITT AND WUI. ACTIVATION IS SCHEDULED FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

G) NORTH AFRICA - IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE POINTS, RCA GLOBCOM ALSO OPERATES DIRECT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS WITH NORTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATIONS SUCH AS MOROCCO, TUNISIA, ALGERIA, ETC.

3. ALL MAJOR MIDDLE EASTERN ADMINISTRATIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SAUDI ARABIA NOW HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT SERVICES BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND THE UNITED STATES VIA RCA GLOBCOM. RCA GLOBCOM DOES NOT

ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THOSE CO;NTRIES RELATIVE TO
THE BOYCOTT ISSUE. IT DOES NOT EXPECT THAT ANY MIDDLE

EASTERN ADMINISTRATION WILL DISCONTINUE SERVICE WITH RCA
GLOBCOM. CHRISTOPHER

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